

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 GENEVA 0517Z 241608Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00
INRE-00 ACDE-00 /026 W
-----076792 241610Z /44
O R 241546Z JUN 77
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8588
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

S E C R E T GENEVA 5172

EXDIS USSALTTWO

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PARM
CUBJ: COMMENTS ON MEETING, JUNE 24, 1977 (SALT TWO-1248)

1. AT PLENARY MEETING JUNE 24, I MADE A STATEMENT ON THE SS-16/20 PROBLEM, RESPONDING TO THE SOVIET JUNE 21 STATEMENT, TERMING IT "NOT HELPFUL" AND EMPHASIZING THAT ISSUE MUST BE RESOLVED. I SET FORTH THE US VIEW THAT ISSUE WAS ONE OF FACT--WHETHER THE LAUNCHER IS DUAL-CAPABLE, WHICH IT IS IN OUR VIEW--AND RENEWED OUR OFFER REGARDING VERIFIABLE ARRANGEMENTS THAT WOULD ASSURE THAT THE SS-20 LAUNCHER CANNOT BE USED TO LAUNCH ICBMS.

2. SEMENOV'S STATEMENT REJECTED OUR JUNE 17 REQUEST TO ESTABLISH NUMERICAL UPPER LIMITS FOR THE THROW-WEIGHT AND LAUNCH WEIGHT OF LIGHT AND HEAVY ICBMS. HE STATED THAT EXISTING PROVISIONS OF THE JOINT DRAFT TEXT WERE SUFFICIENT TO RESOLVE ALL FACETS OF THIS PROBLEM.

3. IN BILATERAL, SEMENOV STATED THAT MOSCOW WAS "ASTONISHED" BY THE FORM AND SUBSTANCE OF OUR JUNE 14 STATEMENT CONCERNING DUAL-CAPABLE LAUNCHERS AND REPEATED HIS REJECTION OF THE US POSITION, CLAIMING THAT IT UNDERMINED THE FRAMEWORK OF THE VLADIVOSTOK ACCORD. I RESPONDED THAT THIS WAS NOT THE CASE AND THAT WE WERE ONLY TRYING

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TO RESOLVE A PARTICULAR FACTUAL QUESTION. HE MADE BRIEF REFERENCE TO DISCUSSIONS AT ANOTHER LEVEL RELEVANT TO THIS ISSUE.

4. IN ROWNY/TRUSOV BILATERAL, IN THE CONTEXT OF DISCUSSION ON SS-16/20, TRUSOV REMARKED THAT IT WAS "AN INVOLVED PROCESS" TO PUT A THIRD STAGE ON A MISSILE, AND THAT THIS ACTIVITY COULD BE PICKED UP BY NATIONAL TECHNICAL MEANS.

5. IN JOHNSON/SHCHUKIN BILATERAL, SHCHUKIN STATED THAT AN OPERATIONAL LAUNCHER FOR THE SS-16 DID NOT EXIST. ALL FIRINGS HAVE BEEN CONDUCTED WITH A TEST LAUNCHER.

6. IN ELDREDGE/BEKETOV BILATERAL, BEKETOV TOLD ELDREDGE THAT THE SS-20 LAUNCHER USES THE SAME WHEELS AS THE SS-16 LAUNCHER.

7. NEXT PLENARY SESSION WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29.EARLE

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